

IRVING BARTLETT PRESENTATION SPEECH

Dr. Bartlett, President Kraus, Ivited Dignitaries, Faculty Members, and Friends of the College:

My reason for being on this platform is a simple one: I knew Irving Bartlett when! And so I was drafted to tell you something about the man who started this college from nothing and launched it in the right direction. He is the Zeus from whose brow the college sprang full-grown. I am honored to have been chosen.

Perhaps the best way to describe the beginning is to quote Paul Doiron, the maintenance man hired by Irving in December 1960. Paul explained it in these terms:

A board of the community colleges picked out a president. . . . and I met him. It was Dr. Bartlett. We picked up a secretary [Diana Davis] . . . and there were three of us. We were going to start a college, and none of us knew anything about a college, except Dr. Bartlett-- he happened to go to one.

In the year before September 1961, the building in the center of Hyannis, formerly the Hyannis State Teachers' College and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, was emptied of a congeries of six different organizations and turned into a college. Offices, classrooms, library, faculty lounge, and auditorium were created or refurbished and a new heating system put in at a cost of some \$300,000.

Meanwhile the three co-conspirators tried to keep warm in the former dormitory building of the teachers college and at the same time forge an institution out of inspiration and hard work.

One of Irving's primary functions was promotion of the idea. He spoke countless times to groups of the fact that Massachusetts was forty-eighth in support of public higher education and that the youth of the area desperately needed an inexpensive commuting college to become contributing citizens in our complex society.

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By the time September 1961 arrived, he had developed several curricula and had hired five full-time and six part-time faculty members. The full-timers were Elinor Hanna, Helen Palmer, Carleton Nickerson, Douglas Mitchell, and Yours Truly. Dr. Bartlett's salary was \$12,896, an assistant professor's less than half that.

The first class consisted of 166 students from 33 towns. On opening day, I recall, the classroom chairs had not been delivered. When they came, students and faculty turned to and moved them from the truck to the classrooms. The next class doubled in size, and in 1964 there were 489 students, chosen from 648 applicants. Clearly the need for the college was there. Already the building was nearing its capacity of 500.

So the college began, soon showing through its graduates the quality of its programs, Jim Senefelder (class of 1965) was the first student to transfer to a ^{private} major four-year college, Amherst.

Incidentally, I must acknowledge the source of these facts. It is Dr. Delores Bird's fine, scholarly history, The Early Years of Cape Cod Community College.

With the college well-launched, Irving Bartlett went on to larger fields at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pennsylvania. His guiding hand, gentle yet firm, had created the school and set it on its course, so that soon qualified graduates were attending any college or university of their choice. Several of our graduates are now Ph.D.'s on our faculty.

And so we come, in our thirty-first year, to honor our founder, our benefactor. Irving, with this ~~portrait and~~ citation we acknowledge our debt to you. You now join our Pantheon.

by Almont Clark

